

Bayonet!



Forward!

240TH Engineer Group Newsletter

6 March 2006 – 31 March 2006

Field Training

The 240th Engineer Group has completed all of the necessary Camp Atterbury training and has officially donned the new ACU (Army Combat Uniform) as a right of passage. As part of the celebration, special guests from the Maine Army National Guard came down for the validation ceremony. Honored guests included MG Libby, State Adjutant General; COL Dunlap, Chief of Staff; and CSM Small, State Command Sergeant Major. SGT Ariana Beltran had the honor of being promoted by MG Libby and CSM Small.



The 240th Group stands at attention as SPC Beltran is called front and center.



MG Libby pins newly earned stripes on SGT Beltran's hat.



MG Libby shares a few words with the Group.



LTC Morton displays his new uniform proudly with the addition of an apron. He and other staff members served the troops for their validation "super meal."



SSG Waite and LTC Holbrook sit down to their validation meal.

A new uniform isn't the only item change that the 240th Engineer Group has experienced; Soldiers have been increasing their military education and becoming highly-skilled assets to the team. Nine motivated troops went to non-commissioned officer producing courses such as Warrior Leader Course (formerly known as PLDC) throughout the United States, while others attended computer skills training courses at Camp Atterbury and Chicago, IL. Soldiers of all seniority levels also had the chance to attend the Combat Life Saver Course. The class instructed Soldiers how to insert IV's, stop bleeding and treat bone fractures to name a few skills learned.



MAJ Weston sits patiently as LTC Corbett inserts an IV into his arm.

Combined Task Force Chamberlain



Showing no fear, SPC Miller chooses to film her IV as SPC Paradis inserts the needle into her arm. Wow!

Brigadier General Carmichael came down for the Send Off Ceremony, as it was our next major stepping stone prior to our shipping-out date. MAJ Lajoie set the new standard for all other follow-on units for this ceremony! COL Richmond, the Post Commander, said those exact words of the 240th after seeing the time and attention to detail that was put into this formal program. The Color Guard detail was headed by SFC Grimshaw and SSG Shannon, both are members of Maine's Select Honor Guard. Singing of the National Anthem was provided by our very talented MSG Hanning, and the benediction was given by Chaplain Gibson.



Members of the color guard take a moment to pose for a picture. From left to right: SPC Larrabee, SFC Grimshaw, SSG Shannon, SSG Polky and SPC Paradis.

Soldiers of the 240th Group donated a print of MG Joshua Chamberlain to the Post Commander (COL Richmond) as a token of appreciation for the challenging training received here at Atterbury. It is intended to be a reminder of the challenges overcome while facing adversity, as well as a memento from the 240th Engineer Group.

Other awards included an autographed Stephen King novel to "Gina" for her hard work and dedication.



The Group poses behind the colors with its arsenal of heavy fire power in the fore ground.



From Left to Right: LTC Swartz, LTC Holbrook and CSM Luce pose for the camera in front of our new task force banner donated by Ken Hendrickson of the Shipyard Brewery Company.

Preparing for the deployment, Soldiers packed up their living areas. While Atterbury was many things, spacious was not one of them.



CPT King takes a moment from packing to smile for the camera.

One of the last pleasures here at Camp Atterbury was the Physical Fitness Test. This day will live on in 240th history, as the sky came crashing down on them with a fury from above. During the running / walking portion of the exam, soldiers were bombarded by a surprise sleet storm and a

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bone-chilling wind. As the final Soldiers crossed the finish line, the sun broke through the clouds to warm the air and offer a satirical moment for all those involved.



SFC McKenney, CSM Luce and SFC McGuire show off some holiday items sent in from family members to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

There will be additional pictures located at the Group's website at the following address:

http://www.me.ngb.army.mil/Family/Family_Pages/240th/default.htm

Make sure that you update your address book for your Soldier's new mailing address. Letters sent to Camp Atterbury will be returned to sender. In the near-term, the new mailing address in Afghanistan is:

Soldier's Name
HHC 240th Engineer Group
C/O 18th EN BDE
APO AE 09354

In the spirit of Joshua Chamberlain,

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